



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2008**

**Grade 3
Reading**

Reading

❶ Which word has the same **vowel sound** as try?

- ☐ A. line
- ☐ B. dish
- ☐ C. field
- ☐ D. chair

❷ The **opposite** of the word loud is

- ☐ A. large.
- ☐ B. deep.
- ☐ C. long.
- ☐ D. quiet.

*Read this story about a young mouse who leaves the mouse hole one day.
Then answer the questions that follow.*

The Cat, the Rooster, and the Mouse

by Aesop

A young mouse begged his mother to let him take his first look at the world outside the mouse hole. “Very well,” she answered, “but don’t stay long, and come back and tell me everything you see.”

The little mouse had not been gone five minutes, when he came dashing back into the mouse hole as fast as he could run. “My dear, whatever happened?” asked his mother.



“Oh, Mother,” said the little mouse, trembling all over, “there are such strange creatures out there! First I saw a pretty animal, with soft striped fur and yellow eyes. When she saw me she waved her long tail as if she were glad to see me. But then I saw the most terrible monster! His head was all red, and his feet had long claws. And when he saw me, he opened up his mouth and let out a horrible shriek of ‘Cock-a-doo-dle-do!’ I ran away as fast as I could!”

“My dear,” said his mother, “that pretty creature you saw was a cat, and she likes to eat young mice like you for dinner. And that terrible monster was nothing but a rooster, who only eats seeds and grain. Next time you go out, be more careful, and remember never to judge others by their looks.”



- 3 Why does the young mouse ask to leave the mouse hole?
- ☐ A. to find food
 - ☐ B. to see the world outside
 - ☐ C. to visit the cat and the rooster
 - ☐ D. to teach his mother what lives outside

- 4 Why does the young mouse think the cat is friendly?
- ☐ A. The cat runs away.
 - ☐ B. The cat makes a noise.
 - ☐ C. The cat waves her tail.
 - ☐ D. The cat opens her mouth.

- 5 How does the young mouse feel when he returns to the mouse hole?
- ☐ A. scared
 - ☐ B. calm
 - ☐ C. happy
 - ☐ D. tired

- 6 Which word has the same **vowel sound** as could?
- ☐ A. mouse
 - ☐ B. look
 - ☐ C. claws
 - ☐ D. glad

7 What does the young mouse learn in this story? Use details from the story.

[illegible]

Read this passage about the American flag. Then answer the questions that follow.

The American Flag

by Susan H. Gray

What Does the American Flag Look Like?

Every country has its own flag. The flag of the United States is red, white, and blue. It has thirteen stripes. The stripes are red and white. It also has fifty stars. The stars are white. They are in a blue rectangle in the top left corner of the flag.

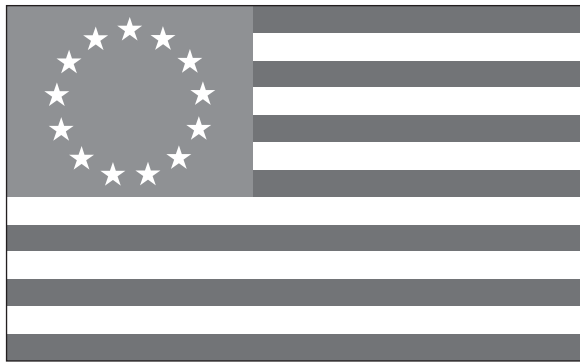
The American flag did not always look the way it does today. Our country has had many different flags.

Who Made the First American Flag?

No one knows who made the first American flag. Some people say that Betsy Ross made it. Betsy Ross liked to sew. Sometimes, she sewed flags for the navy. George Washington may have asked Betsy Ross to make a flag for the new country.

The first American flag had thirteen stripes and thirteen stars. There was one star and one stripe for each of the **colonies**. The circle of stars was in a blue rectangle in the corner of the flag.

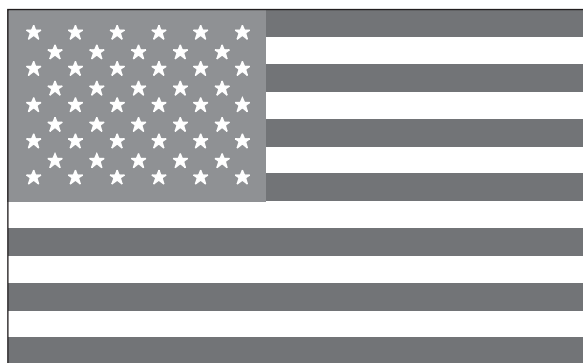
Colonies are places ruled by another country. America once had thirteen colonies. The colonies later became states.



Picture 1

How Has the Flag Changed?

In time, America added two new states. These new states had to be added to the flag too. A new flag was made. It had fifteen stars and fifteen stripes.



Picture 2

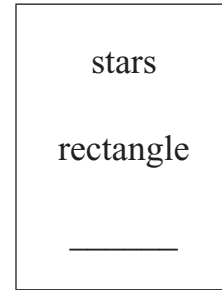
Soon America added still more new states. If new stripes were added for all these states, the flag would be too big! Instead, a new star was added for each new state.

Now, our country has fifty states. The American flag has fifty stars—one for each state. The flag has only thirteen stripes. They stand for the first thirteen colonies.

- 8 In the passage, some people say the first American flag was made
- ☐ A. for the American navy.
 - ☐ B. as a gift for President George Washington.
 - ☐ C. by a woman named Betsy Ross.
 - ☐ D. by someone who sold American flags.

- 9 What does the American flag in **Picture 1** show?
- ☐ A. America once had 13 colonies.
 - ☐ B. New stripes had been added to the first flag.
 - ☐ C. The American flag was too big.
 - ☐ D. The rectangle was now in a new corner of the flag.

- 10 Based on the passage, if a new state were added to America today, the flag would be
- ☐ A. given another star.
 - ☐ B. made larger.
 - ☐ C. given another stripe.
 - ☐ D. made into a different shape.



- 11 Which word belongs with the words in the box?
- ☐ A. states
 - ☐ B. flag
 - ☐ C. stripes
 - ☐ D. country

- 12 Use **four** details from the passage and the pictures to fill in the chart.

How are the first American flag and today's American flag the same?	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Acknowledgments

The New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island Departments of Education wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the reading portion of the *New England Common Assessment Program*—2008.

“The Cat, the Rooster, and the Mouse” (p. 2) from *Aesop’s Fables* by Jerry Pinkney. Copyright © 2000 by Jerry Pinkney. Published by SeaStar Books.

Excerpt from *The American Flag* (p. 5) by Susan H. Gray. Copyright © 2002 by Compass Point Books. Published by Compass Point Books.

Grade 3 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	LI	LI	LA	WV	LA	II	II	IA	WV	IA
GLE Code	2-1	2-3	2-4	2-4	2-5	2-1	2-5	2-7	2-7	2-8	2-3	2-8
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	2
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	A	D	B	C	A	B		C	A	A	C	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response